

Virginia's Veterans Cemeteries

For 400 years, Virginia's sons and daughters have fought for America's freedom. They were on the battlefields in Europe, the South Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other locations around the world. Today, we enjoy our way of life thanks to each Virginian who took up arms and defended our nation and our liberty.

Virginia's veterans cemeteries provide a final resting place for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines—a place of honor, dignity, respect, and remembrance. The Virginia Veterans Cemetery is located in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is located in Suffolk. Both cemeteries accommodate in-ground burial of casketed remains, in-ground inurnment of cremated remains, and above-ground inurnment of cremated remains in a columbarium.

Memorials

Virginia Veterans Cemetery

In-ground burials are marked with upright marble headstones although flat granite markers are used in one garden section. Ground inurnments are marked with flat granite markers, and columbarium inurnments are marked with inscribed marble niche covers.

Albert G. Horton, Jr.

Memorial Veterans Cemetery

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Flags are placed on all burial sites on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. In



Albert G. Horton, Jr.
Memorial Veterans Cemetery

addition, weather permitting, 75 American flags are erected along the perimeter road at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, creating the Avenue of Flags.



Family members may place floral tributes on graves at any time during the year, and holiday wreaths may be placed during Christmas, Easter, and Memorial Day.

Eligibility

Members of the U.S. armed forces who die on active duty, who retire from military service or who are honorably discharged are eligible for burial in one of Virginia's veterans cemeteries. Their legal spouses (widow or widower) and unmarried minor children under age 21 are also eligible for burial in a Virginia veterans cemetery. Additionally, unmarried adult children who become permanently incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability before age 21 may also be interred.

Other U.S. military service members and civilians may be eligible.

- Members of the reserve component of the Armed Forces, the Army National Guard or Air National Guard;
- Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force;
- U. S. citizens who served in the armed forces of any government allied with the U.S. during wartime;
- Commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- Commissioned officers of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service;
- American merchant seamen
- Anyone who dies while in route to be inducted into military service;
- Members of other groups as outlined in 38 USC, Chapter 1, Part 3, Sec. 3.7.



Burial Benefits

- One grave site for a qualified veteran and eligible family members
- Opening and closing of the grave
- A marker (stone and inscription)
- Perpetual care of the site
- Use of committal shelter to conduct funeral service
- Interment of a veteran's spouse and eligible dependent children (\$300 fee)

The veteran or his or her estate must purchase a casket and vault or grave liner for in-ground burials or a plastic, stone (marbleized) or metal urn for inurnments. Wooden urns are acceptable for above ground inurnment.

Pre-Application

Veterans are encouraged to complete the pre-application process at any time. Pre-application determines your eligibility for burial in a veterans cemetery and allows you to indicate if your spouse or eligible dependent children will be buried in the cemetery as well. Pre-application can lessen the burden on your loved ones at the time of your death.

To pre-apply, simply submit

- The Pre-Application for Interment (available at www.virginiaforveterans.com)
- Legible copies of your discharge papers indicating dates of service, branch of service, type of discharge and home of record at induction (normally Form DD214 or Form 53)
- Legible copy of your marriage certificate if your spouse will be buried with you and a legible copy of the birth certificate of any eligible child that will be buried with you.

Pre-application does not reserve a gravesite. A site will be assigned on the day of interment. If an eligible family member dies before the veteran, the veteran must sign an agreement to be interred in the same grave plot before the deceased family member can be interred in the veterans cemetery.

Contact Information

Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia
10300 Pridesville Road
Amelia, VA 23002
Administrative Office:
(804) 561-1475
After hours, funeral directors may call:
(804) 514-1214

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial
Veterans Cemetery
5310 Milners Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
Administrative Office:
(757) 255-7217
After hours, funeral directors may call:
(757) 272-2283

Cemeteries Director: (757) 334-4731

Cemeteries are open to the public every day during daylight hours. Cemetery administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A third cemetery is slated to open near the Radford Arsenal in Dublin, Virginia. Opening is expected in 2010.

Cover photograph courtesy United States Air Force. (Photographer: Kenn Mann)



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**Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere,
who bravely bears his country's cause.**
—Abraham Lincoln